Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09107 140335Z ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /044 W

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P R 140318Z JUL 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1580 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 9107

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SEALAND SHIP ARRIVING HONG KONG WITH REPORTED 51 $\,$

BOAT REFUGEES

- 1. CONGEN WAS INFORMED BY SEALAND OFFICE IN HONG KONG THAT SEALAND CONTAINER SHIP GATEWAY CITY, U.S. OWNED AND U.S. FLAG, PICKED UP 51 BOAT REFUGEES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA EN ROUTE TO HONG KONG FROM BANGKOK. GATEWAY CITY DUE IN HONG KONG JULY 16.
- 2. UNHCR REP CARPENTER WILL BE ASKED BY HONG KONG IMMIGRATION FOR USUAL UNHCR GUARANTEE. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL ASK US IF 51 NUMBERS CAN BE RESERVED FOR THESE REFUGEES FROM THE 1500 NUMBERS BEING HELD IN RESERVE FOR REFUGEES PICKED UP AT SEA BY U.S. FLAG OR U.S. OWNED VESSELS (STATE 152208).
- 3. OUR RECOMMENDATION TO DEPT IS THAT 51 NUMBERS BE RESERVED FROM THE 1500, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY GUARANTEE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO UNHCR OR HKG SINCE THIS WOULD BE BAD PRECEDENT.
- 4. REQUEST DEPT'S COMMENTS SO THAT WE CAN INFORM CARPENTER AND POSSIBLY HKG ON JULY 17. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: SHIPS, REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 14 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK09107
Document Source: COP

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780288-0551 Format: TEL From: HONG KONG Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780760/aaaabyje.tel

Line Count: 56 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 69109e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION HA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 27 apr 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date: Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2009386 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SEALAND SHIP ARRIVING HONG KONG WITH REPORTED 51 BOAT REFUGEES

TAGS: SREF, HK, VM

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/69109e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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